

# the chronicle

**So what do you do to celebrate a 105th birthday?**

– see page 2



**Why rock legend Roy Wood's new portrait is Wizzard**

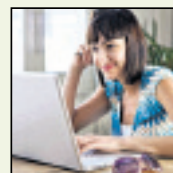
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*This will update every Saturday*



## Top job for waterways enthusiast

A BLACK Country waterways enthusiast has been named on the board of a new waterways advisory group.

Writer and broadcaster Graham Fisher MBE is a member of the trial Local Water Partnerships, which will help with the management of canals and rivers in the West Midlands and North West.

These trial partnerships, alongside a third trial already underway on the Kennet & Avon Canal, will work with local waterway managers until the new waterways charity becomes fully operational in 2012.

Graham, of Kingswinford, was voted Inland Waterways Personality of the Year in 2005 and has been involved in areas from press and media to society chairmanships.

He was chair of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Society and received an MBE for services to the waterways.

Joining him on the board is Councillor David Caunt, former leader of Dudley Council from 2004 to 2009.

## Getting streetwise with dance classes

DANCING stars of the future are invited to a new academy which launched in Dudley last month.

Dudley Street Dance Academy holds sessions for youngsters and adults on Monday (five to 11 year olds) and Wednesday evenings (adults). They are held weekly at Shelines Fitness Studio on Wolverhampton Street. Tanya Anderson, who runs Dudley-based Fire Productionz has set up the academy.

Visit [www.fireproductionz.com](http://www.fireproductionz.com) for more information.

## Show is cancelled

JIMMY Carr's scheduled show at Dudley Concert Hall this week was cancelled. Stand-up comedian Carr had been due to perform yesterday (Wednesday) but the show has now been rescheduled for Thursday September 22. All ticket holders will be offered the choice of the new date or a full refund.

## Revamp for old pool

THE Leasowes nature reserve in Halesowen will have an historic pool revamped with a £5,000 Awards For All lottery grant. The heart-shaped pool will be relined with puddling clay, a disabled access pond dipping platform built and aquatic pond planting carried out.

## Tumble drier blaze

A TUMBLE drier sparked a fire in the flat above a Cradley Heath pub. Fire crews from Cradley Heath were called to The Waterfall in Waterfall Lane last Friday by the landlord. The fire was quickly extinguished by fire fighters but the kitchen suffered smoke damage.

## It's time for a coffee in awareness campaign

STAFF at a Halesowen day centre hope the community will support their charity coffee morning this week.

Halas Homes, which cares for people with learning disabilities, is due to host the event today (Thursday) from 10.30am – noon to support national Learning Disability Awareness Week.

The morning will include coffee, cakes, tombola and a raffle and Jill Roberts, project manager at the Wassall Road-based home, said she hoped it would raise their

profile. "We want to raise Halas' Homes' profile and what we do in the community," she said.

"Halas is growing and going from strength to strength and we're extending our services to take clients from the community and offer a varied programme."

### Climbing

Activities at the home include horse riding, golf, swimming, rock climbing, arts and crafts and a gardening club.

Visit [www.halahomes.co.uk](http://www.halahomes.co.uk) for more information.



Getting ready for a coffee morning as part of Learning Disability Awareness Week at Halas Homes are, back, Susan Homer, Derek Hawksworth and Nicky Etheridge, and front, Teresa Diffin, Jill Roberts and Christine Fellows

## £2.6m funds bid for work at park

A £2.6 MILLION plan to transform Stourbridge's historic Mary Stevens Park hinges on the success of a funding application being drawn up by council bosses.

Plans for the project, costing £2,671,180, will be funded mainly from a proposed application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Dudley Council will also put in a chunk of money towards the scheme. The authority will have to stump up around £620,000 to move the plan a

step closer to reality. The Black Country council was successful in gaining a development grant of £116,100 from the Heritage Lottery Fund in December.

This cash will be spent on producing a second round bid for the remaining £2.6m.

Historic landmarks across the parkland, off Heath Lane, will be returned to their former glory should the application be successful. Top priorities include the restoration of Heath House gardens and the entrance gates.

# TASER GANG ROBS AIR-CHARITY'S HQ

ROBBERS armed with a Taser snatched cash and a car when they raided the charity headquarters of the Midland Air Ambulance.

The three masked men burst into the office on the Enterprise Trading Estate off Pedmore Road, Brierley Hill at around 8.45am on Tuesday.

They threatened staff inside the offices with the Taser, although the weapon was not used.

No-one was injured, and the men ran from the premises with bags of money, and escaped in a grey Peugeot 308 car belonging to a member of staff.

Acting Detective Sergeant Chris Woodward, from the Sandwell and Dudley team of the force CID, said: "This is a serious and despicable crime. "Staff had not long arrived at work when they were confronted with these men in the office."

"They were threatened by the men and had phones taken off them."

"The offenders then took money bags, containing cash that had been donated. As yet we do not have a definite

amount that has been stolen; however, we believe the sum to be significant.

"Thankfully, no-one was hurt. However, all those involved were obviously upset and shaken by their ordeal."

"We urge anyone who saw a grey Peugeot 308 in the area after around 9.15am to come forward."

"We are yet to recover the vehicle so would be interested in hearing from anyone who may have seen such a car dumped or parked suspiciously."

Midlands Air Ambulance charity director Hanna Sebright said: "I find it hard to comprehend that people would commit such a violent crime and steal money from a life saving charity."

### Despicable

"Dedicated people have gone to great lengths to raise money for the charity, and it is appalling that it will be unable to be used for the purpose of keeping the Air Ambulances in the air."

"This despicable act could actually cost people's lives."

The men were all described as black, in their 20s and had scarves over their faces.

Anyone with information to help the police investigation is urged to contact Harborne police station on 0345 113 5000 or speak to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Mums and their children celebrate their toddler group reaching its first milestone

## A happy first birthday

PARENTS at Quarry Bank Children's Centre are celebrating the first anniversary of running their own toddler group.

The children's centre runs a group for newborn babies until the age of one, which is where the parents first met.

After their children had reached the age of one, the parents, with the help of the centre, set up Quarry Bees, a group for one to three year olds. They successfully applied for funding for toys and activities, including a trip to Santa's Grotto at Dudley Zoo.

Kelly Andrews, parent said: "Our Tuesday mornings have proved extremely popular. It is great for the children to get together to play, and also a good opportunity for parents to chat and share experiences."

Councillor Liz Walker, cabinet member for children's services, said: "This is a wonderful achievement by the parents and demonstrates the good relationship between them and the staff at the centre. Well done on your first year's success."

## Mary the giant slayer mapping out her success

A MAP designer from Kingswinford is celebrating two prestigious awards at a recent ceremony.

Mary Spence MBE, of High Wood Close, staved off stiff competition, including from National Geographic, to win the Stanfords Award and the British Cartographic

Society Award at a maps symposium in Macclesfield.

The awards were in honour of her map The Environmental World, an educational map which highlights influences on the environment, from natural disasters to pollution and urbanisation. Mary com-

bines her role as map designer for Global Mapping (UK) Ltd with her own publishing house, Sparrow Publishing. She said: "It is a great honour to win these awards in the face of such giants in the world of maps." Mary was awarded the MBE for cartographic design in 2004.

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# Skateboard fun at 102, now the birthday girl tries out a C5 trike but is not impressed

Born 105 years ago, Madge Hart admits she is still game for a laugh – not to mention the odd challenge of riding a Sinclair C5 trike. JOHN NASH meets this remarkable birthday girl



Cheers – it's a sherry a day for Madge



Right on cue – Madge eyes up the ball in a family pool challenge



A new challenge at 105 – birthday girl Madge Hart tries the Sinclair C5, but it fails to impress

WHEN Madge Hart was 102 her grandchildren persuaded her to try her hand at skateboarding, so it was no surprise that when she celebrated her 105th birthday on Saturday she agreed to try out an unusual trike which made the headlines in the mid-80s – for all the wrong reasons.

Braving the showers, Madge took the seat of inventor Clive Sinclair's ill-fated C5 and gave a thumbs-up before declaring: "I've never learned to drive. Where's the steering wheel? What makes it go?"

Like the thousands who ridiculed the eco-friendly invention at the time of its launch, she thought that "perhaps a proper car would be more suitable" and the sherry-a-day resident of a Halesowen old people's home picked up her stick and promptly headed indoors out of the rain.

"I had lessons, you know, and loved driving. But the examiner failed me for driving up to junctions too fast. He didn't appreciate the way I drove, even though my husband said I was a good driver. I was a good driver," she insisted.

Madge, who marked her special day with 30 family and friends at a party at Lapal House Residential Home, in Lapal Lane South, admits she's still game for a laugh "even though I cannot do all the things I used to".

In the past when her eyesight was keener, she would not shy away from the odd game of pool and was well-known for her sharp humour.

## Memories

Born when King Edward VII was on the throne, Madge moved into the home last August from her house in Castle Road West, Oldbury, and has fond memories of her home town of neighbouring Bearwood.

"Bearwood was quite a nice place and I remember as a girl growing up there with mum and dad. It was different altogether than today and no-one ever had to go into Birmingham to shop. You could get it all in Bearwood High Street, groceries,

clothes – everything you needed. "We had no electricity and had to make do with gas lights, but in many ways it was not that different than things are today. People were still as busy, we had our problems with two world wars and families struggled just as they do now. Of course we didn't have the modern conveniences.

"People knew each other and helped each other more and it was a better community we lived in," she said.

"She loved attending Bearwood Road School and clearly remembers one incident which landed her in big trouble with her mother. "My mother dressed me in a white dress and it was new.

"I was instructed to take care... but the girl who sat at the back of me in class must have been jealous.

"We had ink wells and pens to dip in them. Before the lesson was finished she had made sure I had ink all down the back of my dress and it was ruined. I was in such a lot of



Flash-back to the skateboarding fun with Max and Ross Hart at Madge's 102nd birthday

trouble," she said. Raised with four brothers, Don, Albert, Cecil and Ken, she is keen to point out she was never spoilt as the only girl.

"Spoilt? Never! We were all treated the same and I had to get a job the same as my brothers," she said.

On leaving school at 14, Madge worked for Wesley & General Assurance in Birmingham for 10 shillings a week (50p) and enjoyed her hobbies of knitting and sewing.

## Resign

She married her childhood sweetheart, Harold, in Bearwood in 1929 and was promptly told by her bosses she would have to resign from the firm.

"They didn't employ married women. It was policy, not like it is now," she said.

"I met Harold at school when I was about 10 or 12 and there was

never anyone else for me. I enjoyed my job and rose through the ranks, but I was happy to leave to marry Harold. It was well worth it. I had a good life with him.

"It was just a little girl when the First World War broke out but it didn't seem to bother us as children, but by the time the Second World War started I was a full-time mother and housewife and it was very different for me.

"It was a constant worry," she recalled.

"Harold was called up and served as a captain in the Royal Artillery before becoming a teacher at the school where we met.

"It was a time of austerity but we were happy and I had four children, Alan, Michael, Janet and Norman," she added.

Born in Ethel Street, Bearwood, Madge has spent most of her years close to the Black Country except for

a short time in the 1930s when she lived in Gloucestershire where she took up singing in a choir.

During the 50s and 60s she was an active charity worker with the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS).

She has 11 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren, enjoys her daily tipples and regular letters from brother, Don – now aged 100.

## Remarkable

And the secret of her happy 105 years?

"Plain living, enjoying a quiet life and having a lovely family."

Proprietor of Lapal House, Tony Billingham, said: "She's absolutely remarkable and has a great sense of fun about her."

"I recall when she arrived here, she got out of the car unaided and walked up the steps just using a stick. Incredible."

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## Roy's portrait is Wizzard



Rock legend Roy Wood unveils a painting of himself

WIZZARD frontman Roy Wood has unveiled a life-sized oil painting of himself at a renowned music club in the Black Country.

The Birmingham-born rocker, who was also a founding member of The Move and Electric Light Orchestra and enjoyed solo success, saw the picture for the first time at a ceremony at the Robin 2, in Bilston, on June 13.

Court in the Act was painted by Australian artist Debra Dee and depicts the 64-year old sitting on a throne, with a

younger version of himself peering over his shoulder.

The exhibit will be a permanent fixture at Woody's Bar, named after the musician, and will sit alongside several other smaller portraits of the star.

Roy said: "I hadn't seen it before and she hadn't given me any idea what it was going to be like but it's great."

"She has done quiet a few pictures of me now and she always does a good job."

Wood plays at the Robin 2 on November 26 before touring in support of Status Quo.

## More horses are seized in clampdown

ALMOST 30 stray horses have been seized by police since officers began rounding them up off Dudley's streets a month ago.

Police said eight of the animals were captured recently, bringing the total to 29. The latest horses to be seized were taken from Alexander Hill, Quarry Bank; Hayes Lane, Lye; Pennett Industrial Estate; Gordon Crescent, Pensnett and John Street, Brierley Hill.

The horses were rounded up after reports from residents and taken to a paddock outside the Black Country. Police notices were put up asking for the rightful owners to come forward.

Among the seized horses taken were ones picked up in Tipton as bailiffs continue to clamp down on illegal grazing.

### Colt

Two Shetland ponies and a black and white colt were taken at Ocker Hill Walkway - land behind Hawthorn Road. A fourth horse was taken at Upper Church Lane walkway, behind Warren Close.

Councillor Derek Rowley, Sandwell Council cabinet member for neighbourhood services, said bailiffs had no choice after owners ignored warnings that they could not be left grazing common ground.

"Four horses were removed from the site overnight on Thursday and Friday (June 8 and 9)," he said.

"They had permission to take up to eight horses, although I understand only four were removed. I don't know why this is, but it could be because of the space when it came to trans-



Dave Stanford and son Ashley Head, rear, with Glen Harvey, front

porting them." But Dave Stanford, aged 36, of Hawthorn Road said: "I have 14 horses in total, the majority of which are in fields that I rent."

"However, I have been keeping two horses in stables in my garden. One had a foal."

"I let them out onto the field behind the house on Thursday and forgot to bring them in."

"I don't understand why the bailiffs took some and not others. In the 20 years I have had horses I haven't seen notices on the land. They have taken a three-week-old foal, which needs its mother."

The council said notices were erected and denied a foal was taken.

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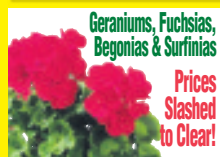
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## Check out latest view of a £27m Tesco



The latest aerial view of the new £27 million Tesco superstore taking shape at Burnt Tree Island. Picture: Tim Thurstfield

THIS aerial image shows a bird's eye view of the new £27million Tesco superstore taking shape in the Black Country.

Construction of the supermarket at Burnt Tree Island on the border of Dudley and Sandwell started in March.

As the photograph shows, most of the metal frame for the new building has been erected while work on the sales floor is well under way.

The lower floor of the building will be used for car parking. Work is also progressing on the

timber cladding on the front of the building and a glass entrance will also be put in place.

The store is expected to be completed before the end of the year and Tesco bosses hope it will be trading in time for Christmas.

### Pipes

Work to clear the site of debris was finished in March following demolition of the old store, including its landmark clock tower, in January.

The storerooms at the back of the site were taken down last because they contained refriger-

ation pipes which had to be cleared of gas.

Old mine shafts around the site also had to be filled in before construction could start. The original supermarket was built in 1992 on the site of the former Ewatts factory.

A temporary store with 120 staff has opened on the site while the new supermarket is being built. The remaining 300 workers have been transferred to other branches during building work.

It is hoped to use some of the materials from the old store in the rebuilding work but there are no plans to recreate the

clock tower in the new designs.

The store, which will be three times the size of the old one, is planned as a "concept store" and may include facilities such as a hair salon, nail bar and gym - although these developments are still under discussion.

Manager of the old store Peter Vinnicombe said: "Its size and design will allow us to experiment with new concepts."

When the old store closed bosses invited back shopper Edna Griffin, aged 73, who was the first customer through the doors when it opened in 1992. They wanted her to be among the last customers as well.

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# Councils meet the bill to run speed cameras

COUNCILS have paid for speed cameras to be maintained and repaired despite voting to axe £750,000 of funding. They now face decisions on future funding.

West Midlands Police has decided to go it alone and has put £1million into speed cameras for this financial year.

## Damage man to pay up

A MAN who stole £210 of food and drink before damaging windows of a car and flat has been ordered to pay compensation by magistrates.

Darren Cook, aged 27, was seen by police officers throwing stones at the window of a council flat.

He was also spotted damaging windows on a VW Polo car parked nearby before being arrested, Dudley Magistrates Court heard.

When police arrived they found him with food taken from Tesco, in Hagley Road, Halesowen.

Cook, of Hamilton Avenue, Halesowen, pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to shoplifting and criminal damage.

He was given a 12-month community order by the magistrates.

They decided that Cook must also pay a total of £240 compensation.

Councils in the region, who are part of the West Midlands Road Safety Partnership, voted to axe their contribution.

But it has now emerged that £26,846 from the councils has been used on the cameras. It came from a road safety grant for fixing speed cameras.

Councils have been told they must consider if they are willing to fund cameras in future years.

Police will raise the money to operate them this year through fees from speed awareness courses that speeding drivers can attend in lieu of penalty points.

### Permanent

There are 57 sites in the West Midlands where cameras are switched on for eight days a month and 34 in use most of the time.

In a report to councillors from Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull, officers said they need to find a permanent solution to pay for repairs.

Peter Francis from the chief engineers and planning officers group, said a longer-term view was required before December.

## Students' artwork on display



Keleigh Faulkner with her artwork which went on display at Dudley College

ART STUDENTS at a Black Country college showcased their work at an end-of-year exhibition.

Youngsters on the Art and Design at Dudley College put together the display as part of Arts Fest at the Mons Hill Campus.

Visitors were able to view the work completed by students who have

studied on various creative arts courses at the college, including art and design, graphics, media photography, sculpture, ceramics, textiles, music, costume and theatre production.

The display, which the college used to attract possible new students, closed last Friday.

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thechronicle

## Quarry plans a disaster says MP

CONTROVERSIAL plans to build a new quarry on the outskirts of a Dudley village have been labelled "an environmental disaster" by a Black Country MP.

Plans to quarry land at the Mile Flat in Wall Heath, Dudley, at the rear of Dudley-Kingswinford Rugby Club, have been submitted by contractor FG Davis & Sons Ltd.

The Staffordshire-based company wants to excavate gravel and sand from the 19-acre site - causing outrage among nearby residents.

### Extend

The company is also seeking permission to extend its current permission to continue work at its existing quarry site in Enville Road for another three years.

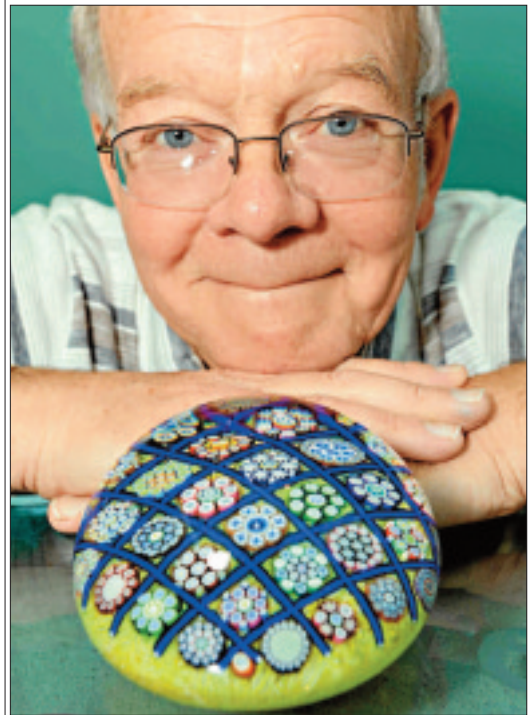
Dudley South MP Chris Kelly met protest group Quarries Fighting Fund earlier this month to discuss its concerns.

"Having two quarries operating at the same time would be a disaster for the people of Wall Heath and the wider area," said Mr Kelly.

"This development, if allowed, will change the local landscape for many years."

Dave Tyler, organiser of the quarry campaign, said: "Having another quarry in the area would blight the area for at least another generation." Protesters have set up a website, [www.qff.org.uk](http://www.qff.org.uk)

## Glass art is clear inspiration



Richard Giles shows off one of his favourite 'millefiori' paperweights

MORE THAN 200 flower-inspired paperweights took centre stage at Dudley's Broadfield House Glass Museum for a special exhibition.

Visitors flocked to the museum in Compton Drive, Kingswinford, for the annual Paperweight Day on June 11.

This year the show was themed around a style of decoration known as "millefiori" - or "a thousand flowers" - which consists of tiny glass canes shaped like flowers.

Organiser Richard Giles, from the Paperweight Collectors Circle which has hosted the event in Dudley for almost 10 years, said it had been a "great success".

He added: "We actually had people queuing outside the museum before we opened, which is highly unusual. We had a marvellous collection. Ten members of the circle bought a couple of dozen paperweights each," said Mr Giles, aged 67, from Cheltenham. "Some of them date back to the 1840s."

Mr Giles, who has 1,600 paperweights, added: "It's always a popular event."

## New mayor in dedication to people of Dudley borough



The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Michael Evans and fellow members of the civic party



Dignitaries shelter under umbrellas as they arrive for the mayor's service

DUDLEY'S new mayor has been sworn in.

In a ceremony attended by dignitaries from across the Midlands, Councillor Michael Evans' dedication affirmed his dedication to serving the people of the borough.

He took the formal oath at the mayor's civic service held at All

Saint's Church in Vicar Street, Sedgley, on June 12.

The ceremony was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Walsall, Gary and Yvonne Clarke; the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Bert Turner, and the Mayor of Stafford Councillor Stan Highfield and Mayoress Frances Knight.

Also there were Dudley councillors including ward members from Sedgley.

The church was led in a series of hymns chosen by Councillor Evans.

"This was a very important occasion, when the mayor dedicates himself to the people of Dudley," he said.

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thechronicle

## Thieves strip £6,000 metal from vans

METAL THIEVES stripped more than £6,000 worth of valuable scrap from three vans during the latest in a series of raids at a Dudley delivery firm.

Catalytic converters and exhaust systems were ripped off three Sprinter vans which were parked at NW Levers in Ham Lane, Kingswinford. It happened shortly after midnight on Monday, June 13.

Company bosses revealed that a string of thefts at the firm has cost them more than £30,000 in stock and damages in just two years.

Van batteries worth more than £7,600 were stolen overnight between June 9-10, while previous raids have seen 6,000 litres of diesel fuel stolen, and thousands of pounds of batteries and tools taken from inside the compound.

Manager Paul Wady said the site has been targeted repeatedly by crooks who wait until the evening shift is over before smashing their way in.

### Watch date for town

A NEIGHBOURHOOD Watch meeting for people in the Milking Bank and London Heights areas of Dudley will be held on tonight (June 23).

Police officers from the St James neighbourhood policing team will attend to listen to any concerns from residents.

It will take place at The Hilly House pub in Himley Road at 7pm.

Anyone unable to attend but who would like to raise issues, can call 0345 113 5000 ext 7901 6591.

### Club hosts Kings band

DUDLEY-BASED tribute band the Kings of Hum-Leon will return to play Halesowen Cricket Club on Saturday.

The group, who play a selection of hits from a range of genres, will play at the club in Seth Somers Park, Halesowen.

The music starts at 8pm. Tickets at £5 are available from the club or from [www.halesowen-cricketclub.co.uk](http://www.halesowen-cricketclub.co.uk)

### Hoods

"It's quite a significant amount of money to replace everything which has been stolen," he said.

"It hasn't got to the point where we are having to consider getting rid of staff, but it all affects the bottom line."

"There were four of them on Thursday night. They came around 9pm, an hour after our late shift ended, in a plain white van with its number plates covered," he said.

"They were all wearing hoods or face covers so you can't see who they are." 9

## School auction to aid appeal



Back, from left, Sarah Callaghan with Tayla Hamilton, Wendy Chandler, Kerry Gilbert and Alfie Johnson, and front, deputy head Penny Forster and Luis Hickman with Danielle Rollinson and Hammad Aslam in the sensory room

A SPECIAL school wants items to auction off to raise cash for a new sensory room.

Pens Meadow School, Wordsley, is staging the event at the Summer Ball but needs donations.

It wants to raise £20,000 to replace the current small room and its dated equipment. Jewellery, artwork and a case of champagne have already been donated, along with T-shirts signed by the Great Britain Paralympic team.

Lucy Nicholls, a presenter on satellite shopping channel Gems TV, will

compere after fundraiser Sarah Callaghan, who makes jewellery as a hobby, got her help.

Mrs Callaghan, whose husband James is head of sixth form, hopes local firms will get involved. She said: "We're billing it as a search for 'Pens-friends' who will get behind us."

The auction is on July 8 at 7.30pm at Wilson Hall, Stourbridge Road, Cradley. To help with donations, call Mrs Callaghan on 07531721722 or for tickets contact the school on 01384 818945.

# DAVID ALEXANDER

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## Canals board ready to act

A BOARD of West Midlands business leaders and people interested in canals has been set up to prepare for the Government to hand over control of waterways to an independent body.

British Waterways is set to become an independent body, similar to the National Trust, next year.

A group of business people chaired by Peter Mathews, of the Black Country Consortium and managing director of Black Country Metals, will work alongside British Waterways to see how the organisation can become self-sufficient and cut its ties with the Government.

### Docks

British Waterways manages and cares for 2,200 miles of canals, rivers and docks, as well as 2,555 listed buildings and structures.

The Local Waterway Partnership will work out how the region's waterways should operate from 2012 in getting more people involved. The partnership was holding its first meeting on Wednesday.

It includes Dudley councillor David Caut; Anne Cranston from environmental charity Groundwork; Nick Crombie, chief executive of the Bilston-based Heanton Housing Association; Matt Ward, general manager of the Copthorne Hotel in Dudley and Neil Wyatt, chief executive of the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country.

# Robber knocks Legion chairman unconscious

THE CHAIRMAN of a Royal British Legion club was knocked unconscious by a robber who tried to steal cash intended for the Poppy Appeal.

Dudley councillor Malcolm Davis, aged 67, was going to bank the £120 after leaving the Ex-Servicemen's club in Hall Street when he was attacked on Firs Street, about 50 yards from the club.

A man punched him, before grabbing at a plastic carrier bag containing the cash. Councillor Davis refused to let go, and during a struggle he was punched to the ground.

While he lay unconscious, five other members of the club, alerted by a passer-by, chased the attacker and wrestled the bag from him before he got away.

Councillor Davis, who served in the Territorial Army's Royal Corps of Signals for six years, had bruises to his chin and arms.

He said: "It's really shaken me up, and I'm so angry that he tried to take money that was being added to the Poppy Appeal."

### Punched

"He started following me after I left the club, and as I sped up, he sped up."

"Then I knew something was up, and he went for the bag, but I wasn't going to let him have it."

"He punched me, and next thing I know, I'm on the ground."

Councillor Davis has represented the Dudley St James's ward for 10 years and been chairman of the Legion's Dudley branch for three years.

A former haulage firm boss, the father-of-three is now retired.

De Daniel Bailey is appealing for witnesses to the attack, which hap-



Malcolm Davis

pened at 2.30pm on Monday, June 13 to contact the police.

He said: "This attack happened in the middle of the afternoon, so I am confident someone would have witnessed this attempted robbery and assault, and we urge them to come forward."

Police say the attacker is described as white, in his mid-40s, stocky and around 5ft 5in. He had dark brown hair and wore a light-coloured, short-sleeved shirt and trousers.

Any witnesses, or anyone with information, is asked to call Brierley Hill police station on 0345 113 5000 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

## Julie picked as poster star

A MOTHER from the Black Country has been chosen to front a national advertising campaign which will see her face adorn billboards across the country.

Julie Poultny, aged 44, from Dudley, has been picked from thousands of women across the UK to star in a new Dove beauty campaign.

It will see her featured on a billboard on Stafford Street in

Wolverhampton as well as other prominent sites across the UK.

She will appear alongside nine other women in the campaign who all entered a competition run by Dove and Asda supermarket.

The winners were randomly selected after entering the competition in store or online.

As part of their prize they were invited to take part in an

all-expenses paid photoshoot in London with photographer Mark Curtis, and a pampering day.

The mother-of-two from Milking Bank has never modelled in her life before.

"It has been a fantastic surprise because I didn't even enter, my husband Andy entered for me," she said.

"It was an amazing experience, I loved it."



## Date set for waste inquiry

AN EIGHT-DAY public inquiry over plans to build a £120million waste incinerator is to be held in November.

Worcestershire County Council said the inquiry at County Hall, Worcester will begin on November 22.

Plans for the EnviRecover plant on Hartlebury Trading Estate, near Kidderminster, have sparked a wave of protest from residents.

The county council seemed likely to approve the scheme, but the decision was called in by Secretary of State for communities and Local Government Eric Pickles.

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## Nursery's idea takes wing



Nursery nurse Hayley Furber watched by, back from left, Lucy Holloway and Josh Blunn with, front from left, Olivia Moss and Rohn Sumon

CHILDREN were all a-flutter at a Sedgley day nursery as they released a collection of butterflies they had been nurturing.

Youngsters at Cloud 9 watched in awe as the 10 painted lady butterflies left the nursery site in High Holborn.

Nursery manager Joanna Fletcher said: "The children had the butterflies since they were tiny caterpillars and watched as they grew bigger and later

changed into cocoons. They were very excited about releasing them."

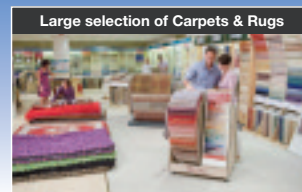
"It's nice for them to watch as they change from caterpillars into butterflies and we help them to understand what's happened."

Children in the pre-school have been learning all about caterpillars and butterflies and had been read stories such as the Eric Carle classic The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

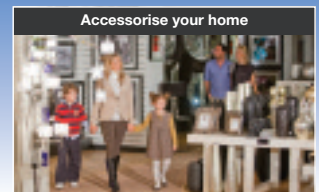
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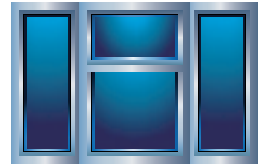
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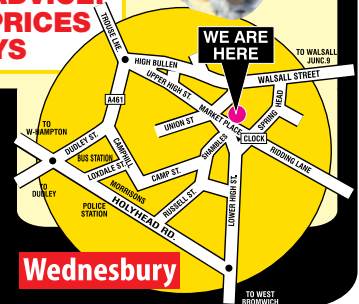
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COMPETITION

## Joust a minute, tickets going free

THE ultimate spectator sport returns to Kenilworth Castle in July and the Chronicles have teamed up with English Heritage to offer 10 family tickets for close-up views of all the action.

Each ticket will also incorporate a month's free pass to Kenilworth Castle valid until August 10, to include all Time Traveller Go Archaeology and Time Traveller Go Knights and Princesses children activity events (Normal family admission is £20.80).

For two days - Saturday, July 9 and Sunday, July 10 - the castle's grounds will be filled with the pageantry of the medieval joust as visitors choose the knight that they want to support and cheer him on to victory in the medieval equivalent of the World Cup!



"Our jousters use special lances with balsa-wood tips, designed to retain all the spectacle of splintering wood, but without the potential injuries," says English Heritage's regional events manager, Karen Pike. "That said, when two knights and their horses, each weighing over a tonne with all of their armour, are speeding towards each other at around 30mph, even our lances still pack a real punch, and it requires all the skill of the rider to stay on the horse!" The Grand Medieval Joust is



Enjoy a close-up view of the action

not just about the competition; visitors will enjoy all the fun of a full medieval pageant, with medieval music and dance, spectacular displays of falconry and English Heritage's official court jester to keep the crowds entertained!

The event runs from 11am-5pm, with the castle itself opening an hour earlier at 10am. Admission, which includes entry to the site, the Elizabethan Garden and the Grand Medieval Joust is £10 for adults, £9 for concessions and £6 for children, with a family ticket (two adults and up to three children) for £26.

English Heritage members receive discounted entry of £2 for adults, £1.80 for concessions and £1.20 for children, or £5.20 for a family ticket.

A Park & Ride service will run every 10-15 minutes from 10am-6pm from Kenilworth clock tower bus stop. Park in the town centre car parks,

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For more information, visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk/kenilworth](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/kenilworth) or call 01926 852078.

For your chance to win, just answer this simple question:

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Send your answer on a postcard to: Joust Competition, Chronicle series (Editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES, Closing date: Thursday, June 30. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final



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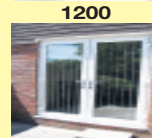


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## Factfile

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The Venue**Type of Business**

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**Established**  
November 2009**Location**  
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# Chefs sharing exotic tips in taste buds revolution



THEY'RE calling it a food revolution, one of Dudley's new gems and a dining experience not to be missed.

Visitors are taken to India, China, Mexico, Italy, Thailand and then brought back to Britain at Venue Cuisine with a wide-ranging menu which encompasses some of the finest foods from around the world. As if there wasn't enough to choose from for the diner, multi-talented chefs can cater to their every need by personalising their pizzas, pastas or kebabs.

And now school pupils in Dudley can savour the many delights that Venue Cuisine as to offer as part of a unique educational link up.

**Creative**

Chefs from Venue Cuisine, based on High Street, are passing on their expertise to the town's next generation of creative cooks.

Pupils are treated to a sample menu of the best that Venue Cuisine has to offer, showed how to use chopsticks and taught all about different spices.

The restaurant's gifted chefs are also paying visits to schools are the borough, running interactive food lessons, passing on the tricks of the trade and helping youngsters make their own meals.

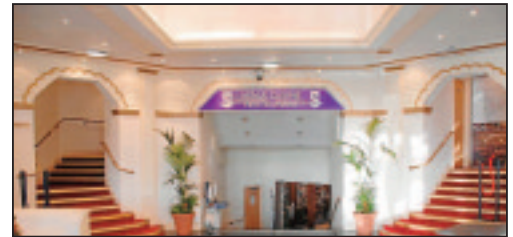
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Food, glorious food – chefs pride themselves in freshly-prepared meals, including Indian, Italian, Chinese, Thai and Mexican dishes

Venue Cuisine's spokeswoman said the reaction from chefs and pupils alike had been overwhelmingly positive.

"We're taking industry into the classroom and the pupils have been

inspired by what's on offer," she said.

"They're asking us all about different cultures and it feels like we're bringing communities together. The chefs really like the community

aspect of it but they just love cooking and showing off their skills.

"They're very proud of what they do and they want to inspire others to do the same."

The Venue opened in November

2009 and as well as hosting the Venue Cuisine restaurant it also has top of the range conference and banqueting facilities.

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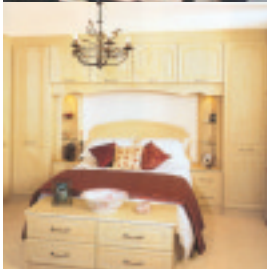
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## Morris zones in on 'London bias'

LONDON is "sucking" money and opportunities out of the rest of Britain, a Black Country MP has claimed.

James Morris said a relentless focus on the English capital – the epicentre of Britain's political, economic and cultural life – meant the "major challenges, deep levels of deprivation and unemployment" in other parts of the country were being ignored.

He said there was a need for a greater spread of investment across the UK, in particular to

the West Midlands. The Halesowen and Rowley Regis Conservative MP was speaking during a Communities and Local Government Select Committee hearing on regeneration.

### Evidence

As a member of the cross-party group of MPs, Mr Morris clashed with Sir Robin Wales, elected Mayor of the east London borough of Newham, who was recently called to give evidence to the panel.

Mr Morris questioned the rationale behind an enterprise zone in the Royal Docks, asking

the Leader of Newham Council: "Isn't London just one massive enterprise zone? It is sucking out opportunities from the rest of the country."

"Why do you need another enterprise zone? You have had the Olympics, and now you want an enterprise zone, whereas in places like the West Midlands, the economy has major challenges, deep levels of deprivation and unemployment."

"Is London not just one big enterprise zone anyway?"

Sir Robin responded: "No. Come to the East End and see

what the problems are. I am not against investing in the Midlands, but I want investment in the biggest area of deprivation in the country, and in Europe if you take unemployment."

Mr Morris said afterwards: "It is vital that the West Midlands receives the support and investment it needs."

The Government is creating 21 Enterprise Zones in Local Enterprise Partnership areas and has promised to invest £100million in them before the next election to create thousands of jobs and kick-start the economy.

## Manor house homes bid sparks new fears

RESIDENTS have raised new concerns over the latest plans to build homes in the grounds of an 18th century Black Country manor house.

They claim revised proposals for the development at Wordsley Manor have not gone far enough to protect wildlife at the site.

And they also feel the development will not fit in with the surroundings. Plans by Hagley-based developer Selbourne Homes to build 14 homes within the grounds of the Firmstone family's home have been on the table for more than two years.

### Illegal anglers hiding in trees

ANGLERS are hiding among trees to fish illegally for koi carp and goldfish in a pool at a Kingswinford park.

Their actions have sparked fears over the future of wildlife.

Fishing is not allowed at King George VI Park, but members of the town's model boat club who sail their craft there say people are flouting the rules.

Members say they are concerned for the wildlife which visits the pool and have urged Dudley Council to take action.

The only fishing allowed at council-run sites is at Fens Pool and Himley Park.

Club treasurer Paul Newman said: "They hide in the trees to fish but a lot of them are now just doing it out in the open. They don't seem to care about being caught."

### Geese

"It has become a real problem. We are worried it is endangering the wildlife especially the birds. There is a lot of fish in the pond but the number will get less and less if people keep fishing there."

Mr Newman, aged 38, said members had reported the problem to the RSPB as they were concerned for swans and geese at the pool. They fear the birds could get tangled in fishing line.

He said members wanted regular patrols of the park by council officers as well as permanent "no fishing" signs.

Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "We have been made aware of people fishing at King George VI park, which is not allowed."

"We would ask people not to fish at the pool, and remind them there are a number of very popular venues for anglers to visit including Fens Pool and Himley Hall and Park."

The fishing season has now opened at the Great Pool at Himley Hall and Park. It had been closed to allow fish stocks to be replenished.

But they were resubmitted this year after Dudley council insisted on an improved strategy for protecting wildlife during works at the site, off Meadowfields Close, Wordsley.

The new documents state a landscaped area will be created to allow the movement of slow worms between the manor house gardens and Stourbridge Canal at the edge of the site.

Selbourne Homes managing director Gavin Warr said that consultation was still being held with Dudley Council planners and residents about the development.

In a letter to planning officers, Meadowfields Close resident Lynda Webb said the plans would be detrimental to neighbouring homeowners.

### Historical

"The proposal from Selbourne Homes is not only detrimental to the setting of the manor but also to local residents who have opposed the scheme," she wrote.

"The historical importance of the building is recognised, but this property, unknown to many local people, plays no part in the life of the local community, so why should the local community have the adverse impact from a development in the grounds of the Manor?"

Fellow Meadowfields Close resident Yvonne Curtis added: "We can only see these plans been an advantage to the developer as a means of maximising his returns and a downfall for Wordsley Manor which will then sit in the middle of a housing estate and a definite disadvantage for the wide collection of wildlife."

Mr Warr said: "We are still in consultation with the authority about the mitigation strategy about the wildlife and nothing has yet been finalised."

"We can still talk to residents about the plans as nothing is yet set in stone."

"We would ask people not to fish at the pool, and remind them there are a number of very popular venues for anglers to visit including Fens Pool and Himley Hall and Park."

The fishing season has now opened at the Great Pool at Himley Hall and Park. It had been closed to allow fish stocks to be replenished.

The council wants to cut 40mph limits on the A459 Dudley Road/Haden Hill Road, in Halesowen, and A451 Norton Road, in Norton, Stourbridge. New 30 mph limits will be introduced on both the roads if plans are approved.

## Church's big push to raise repair funds



Fundraiser Val Woodhouse outside the chapel, which needs £23,000 repairs

A BLACK COUNTRY church is launching a final push to raise thousands of pounds for vital repairs.

A campaign has been running to generate £23,000 for Bethel Chapel in Lye to pay for repointing and to restore windows that are falling apart.

So far, £16,000 has been raised through events and grants – and it is hoped the target can be met by the end of the summer.

The church, which dates back to 1900, has been designated a building of local historic importance by Dudley Council.

The repairs will keep the windows insulated and watertight but are costly as the work needs to be in keeping with the design of the building.

Fundraiser Val Woodhouse said: "The church hosts a lot of important community events, in particular a weekly senior citizens club where the

members are picked up in a minibus. It is absolutely vital that the building is kept in a good condition for when the colder weather comes, as it is so important for these members of the community."

The work will take up to eight weeks. Bricks for the front of the church need to be made to measure, while some of the iron window frames will be completely replaced.

### Auctions

So far, cash has been raised through toy auctions, jewellery sales and donations, including bequests from local residents who have died.

About £7,000 also came from applications to charitable trusts.

Anyone interested in donating, fundraising or helping out with the Bethel Chapel Building Restoration Appeal can contact Mrs Woodhouse at Bethel Chapel on 01384 892137 or visit the website [www.bethelchapel.ne](http://www.bethelchapel.ne)

## Busy roads face cut in speed limit

SPEED limits will be cut on two busy main roads in Dudley borough under plans drawn up following safety fears.

Dudley council wants to cut 40mph limits on the A459 Dudley Road/Haden Hill Road, in Halesowen, and A451 Norton Road, in Norton, Stourbridge. New 30 mph limits will be introduced on both the roads if plans are approved.

In addition, speed limits of 40mph could be extended on Norton Road at its junction with Racecourse Lane, along the road to the authority's boundary with Staffordshire and Worcestershire County Councils.

Current speeds are set at the national speed limit of 60mph along this stretch of the A451 towards Kidderminster.

Dudley Council said the plans were also being introduced to match the speed limits with other sections of the roads.

A consultation with residents and councillors has now got under way.

Council officials safety fears for pedestrians near Mary Stevens Park, off Norton Road, have prompted the move.

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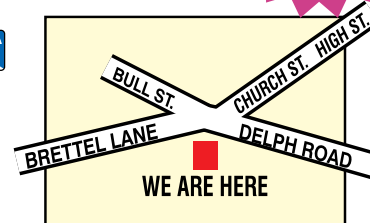
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## Firms are taken to task over upkeep of shops

TWO FIRMS are being taken to task over the "terrible" state of Dudley shops which council chiefs say have been left needing thousands of pounds of repairs.

Dudley Council has launched compensation bids against Swinton Insurance and Lloyds TSB over 32/33 and 34 King Street.

Cabinet member for regeneration, Councillor Angus Adams, said dilapidation orders were lodged against firms claiming they breached lease terms by letting properties fall into disrepair.

"It was part of our lease conditions that the shops would be kept in a decent state, and those were not met," he said.

"It is going to cost a substantial amount to repair - I can't say how much as that is something our legal team and their legal team will have to agree on."

### Concluded

In the meantime, he added, the council would put vinyl window decorations up.

"We want to make them look slightly more attractive than they do at the moment - it's a real mess," he said. If awarded, compensation would be used to bring the building back up to scratch.

A Lloyds TSB spokesman said: "The bank's lease expired in 2008 and since then we have been working with Dudley Metropolitan Council in order to agree the extent of our dilapidations liability, which we hope to conclude shortly."

Swinton insurance spokesman Mairiad Rodden said: "Dilapidations negotiations form part of day-to-day property management responsibilities."

"Swinton are discussing and have ongoing dialogue with the council and this should be concluded in the next few weeks."

## Dog fans paw into the park



Families walk their pets between Himley Park, Dudley and Baggeridge Country Park

PET POOCHES from across the Black Country took their owners on a charity walkies to raise more than £1,000 for Cancer Research UK.

Around 25 people showed up at Himley Park in Dudley Road, Himley on June 11 to take their dogs on a sponsored walk to Baggeridge Country Park and back.

Leonie Hudson, senior volunteer manager for the Midlands, said it was the first staging of the event and its success meant the charity was now hoping to expand it next year.

"People seemed to really enjoy it - everyone went away with a certificate and a goody bag for the dogs," she said.

"There are a lot of walking and cycling-based charity events around and we thought that people might want to get involved in something like this. It's not just one person doing a race and the rest of the family supporting them. It's the dog that is the main focus."



Simon and Emma Whitehouse from Wordsley are seen with their puppy Toby

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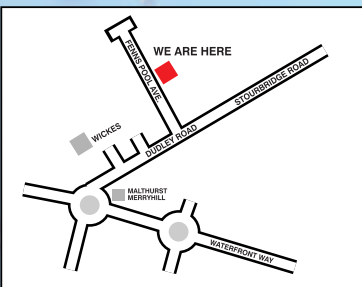
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thechronicle

## School will fly the flag for village

KINGSWINFORD students are flying the flag for their village.

The Kingswinford School has been working closely with Kingswinford & District Historical Society, flag designer Philip Tibbetts and local campaigner Dave Tyler to launch an official flag for the village.

Mr Tyler, a former student at Penzer Street School, now The Kingswinford School, wanted to promote his roots and contacted Black Country flag campaigner Philip Tibbetts and Sharon Bianco, head of art at the school.

Mr Tibbetts, a council member of the Flag Institute and advisor to the Parliamentary flags and heraldry committee, gave a presentation to Year 7 students.

### Registered

They were encouraged to research and work on ideas with their families and draw inspiration from the name, history and colours of Kingswinford.

Five finalists have now been selected and the designs posted for voting on the school website.

To view them, just visit the site at <http://remote.kingswinford.dudley.sch.uk/FlagVote/>

The winning design will be registered officially with the Flag Institute and made into a flag to be flown at the school.

Mrs Bianco said: "The standards were incredibly high and it was extremely difficult to choose."

"There were some wonderful ideas and our students did us proud. We want to fly the flag high over Kingswinford."

One of the finalists is Luke Heys, who said: "I was so thrilled and a little shocked to be a finalist!"

"I really enjoyed designing my flag and we all worked on it as a family."



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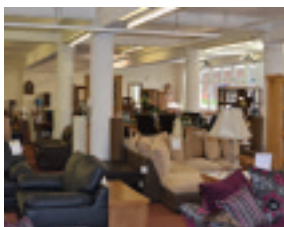
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Dean Overton, managing director of Overton Recycling in Lye, which is now 'recycling' former offenders back into society

## How the ex-offenders are recycled into work

A STOURBRIDGE waste company has started "recycling" former offenders back into useful members of society – and discovered a string of business benefits.

For Overton Recycling, a waste electrical and electronic equipment recycling business in Lye, working with offenders is proving to be a positive experience.

It is bringing benefits for both the business and the individuals involved.

Overton employs about 100 full-time workers, including a number of agency ones. Managing director Dean Overton was offered the opportunity to take on ex-offenders as agency workers for a 13-week period with a view to possible permanent employment.

"Having a criminal record is not in itself a good reason to deny someone a job," he said.

"Life is not straightforward for many people – it's easy to make mistakes but in most cases people deserve a chance to put things right.

"Working with ex-offenders has been a really positive experience for the business. We have five on the payroll at the moment, as agency workers, and all are doing well.

### Loyalty

"We don't view employees as a commodity. We believe that if we invest in them by giving them a second chance or providing opportunities to train and gain new skills, they will reward the business with their loyalty and hard work. We have not been disappointed."

Overton Recycling was founded in 2002 when Mr Overton spotted a gap in the market for the safe disposal of old fridges and freezers in accordance with European environmental legislation. Over the past decade, the business has diversified and today specialises in recycling all kinds of

electrical appliances – "anything with a plug on it, or battery in it," he said.

The business has increased its recycling capacity and uses technology to identify and sort specific metals and plastics so they can be processed ready for reuse by local manufacturing businesses.

A recent survey found that one in five employers (21 per cent) in the region had knowingly employed someone with a criminal record and the vast majority of them (80 per cent) were pleased with the outcome.

Mr Overton believes that more local companies should consider employing ex-offenders.

He said: "Of course employers are going to have concerns initially, but working with the OnTrak Programme is easy and very reassuring."

"Prior to starting their employment, detailed information is provided about the ex-offenders so you know more about them than you would about other employees."

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### ADVERTISEMENT



Wayne Groves displaying his Kickstart certificate

**A search to find 100 of the best young people in Sandwell and Dudley to fill job opportunities is being launched.**

It is part of a new £1.85 million push to get young people into training and employment across the Black Country.

Teenagers are being urged to get in touch with the Kickstart: Gold scheme if they are not in education, employment or training to arrange an interview with a view to gaining employment and an apprenticeship place.

A series of recruitment events are being held in Sandwell and Dudley next month (July) to find 200 16-18-year-olds who would benefit from the scheme, which is being run by Oldbury-based BCTG.

BCTG, based in Taylors Lane, recently secured £1.85 million from the Skills Funding Agency, the Young Peoples Learning Agency and the European Social Fund (ESF) to run the new programme across Dudley and Sandwell.

It has commissioned a host of skilled training providers who will work alongside young people and provide job placements and give them a

"kick start" back into learning and employment.

Kickstart: Gold follows on from an earlier scheme called Kick Start Life, which helped young people like 17-year-old Wayne Groves (pictured).

Wayne recently met West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey during a visit to BCTG, when it announced it had secured funding for the new Kickstart: Gold programme in May.

The 17-year-old, from Tipton, has gone from leaving school without any qualifications to now starting an apprenticeship in vehicle fitting with training provider NACRO having successfully completed the earlier Kick Start Life programme.

Wayne said: "If it wasn't for Kick Start, I wouldn't be doing anything now. Instead I've got more confidence and am now doing an apprenticeship in vehicle fitting."

Mr Bailey said: "I am impressed by BCTG's work in this area with their skills and the commitment they bring to making life better for young people."

Chris Luty, BCTG director, said: "The aim of Kickstart: Gold is to give young people a kick start back into learning which will then lead to a place at college, an apprenticeship or employment."

"In Wayne's case it has led to a future with good training and an apprenticeship so he can go out and get a job."

"We are holding two recruitment events in July to help other young people who like Wayne will benefit from the programme and who will get help to find work with proper training attached to it."

These events are in conjunction with the recruitment arm of BCTG "The Apprenticeship Works" who are specialists in recruiting young people into employment and apprenticeships with local employers. Young people have the chance to earn a decent wage whilst learning and gaining recognised qualifications.

"We are encouraging school leavers and those young people who are currently not in education, employment or training to call us and book an interview at any one of the four recruitment events."

To be in with a chance of getting one of 100 places currently available contact BCTG advisers on 0845 873 3855.

The recruitment days are on July 19 at the Station Hotel in Dudley and July 25 at The Public in West Bromwich.

## THEATRE ROUND-UP

## Familiar TV faces and ticket deal for play season

FOR the third consecutive year Ian Dickens Productions return to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre this month to start a four-play summer season.

Familiar faces from television will be among the actors presenting a mixed bill of comedy, drama and a thriller. Theatre fans can pay £48 to see all four plays, a big discount on the total for individual tickets per show.

The season starts on Tuesday with Jack Popplewell's *Busbybody*, a comedy about a meddlesome cleaning lady who likes to tell the police how best to go about solving a murder.

It's on to Saturday and the cast features former Coronation Street actress Fiona Shaw (she played hairdresser Maxine), Gemma Bissex (from *EastEnders* and *Hollyoaks*) and Michelle Morris (from *The Knock*).

The clueless detective Inspector Pratt returns, following his outing in *Murdered To Death*, in *Death By Fatal Murder*, from July 5-9. The cast for Peter Gordon's sequel features former *Dirty Den* Leslie Grantham, Richard Gibson (Allo Allo's Herr Flick) and Michelle Hardwick (*The Royal*).

## Talented

A frustrated writer takes revenge on a theatre critic in *Who Killed 'Agatha' Christie?* by Tudor Gates, from July 12-16, featuring *Emmerdale*'s Stephen Rashbrook and Charming actor Neil Roberts.

Nicola Boyce's adaptation of Wilkie Collins' classic Gothic novel *The Woman In White* is staged from July 19-23. Peter Amory (*Emmerdale* villain Chris Tate) and Grange Hill's Karen Ford star.

Forthcoming one-night concerts at the Grand include talented tenor Jonathan Ansell and Friends on Monday. The ex-leader of the 'popers' group will be joined by How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria? finalist Helena Blackman, West End performer Oliver Taheri and former Only Men Aloud singer Thomas Oliver.

Expect G4 hits including *Somebody To Love* and *Nessus Dorna* at the Monday night concert. Tickets cost from £24.50 to £29.50.

Contact the Grand box office on 01902 429212.



Linda Lusardi and Sam Kane promote the Grand panto

## Hi ho! Couple happy to be back in city for panto

PANTOMIME stars Linda Lusardi and Sam Kane will grace the Grand stage together after more than a decade.

The celebrity duo officially launched this year's production of *Snow White* and the Seven Dwarfs in a visit to the "special" city.

While ex-glamour model Linda returns as the Wicked Queen, Sam, who is also directing this year's show, will appear as the Prince.

The real-life married couple, who last performed together at the Grand Theatre for panto *Robin Hood* in 1998, will be joined by comedy act *The Grumbleweeds* playing *Muddles* and *Chambers* and West End and former *X* factor star Niki Evans, who will join the cast as the fairy.

Sam, who is in his ninth year of directing, has been a stalwart of musical theatre for

many years. He said: "It is really nice to be back, Wolverhampton is a lovely and very special place to us and the audiences here are so enthusiastic. We are yet to cast our seven dwarfs but we are hoping to be able to work with some of the city's rising stars."

"To come back this year is great and we hope to give everybody a sensational Christmas show."

## Stunts

Linda, who will be seen flying, without wires, said she is looking forward to adapting herself to the Wicked Witch and performing the risky stunts.

"I love this character because it shows a completely different side to me and it's a role I can really get my teeth into," she said.

"The Wolverhampton audiences really know how to enjoy themselves so it's going

to be another great season for us and I am really looking forward to flying in some amazing scenes."

The duo are no strangers to the city after collectively appearing six times at the Grand Theatre over the years.

They have already started preparing themselves for the show which sees them perform twice a day for six weeks. Rehearsals are due to start just two weeks before the curtain is lifted.

Pantomime producers Qdos Entertainment have also announced they will hold open auditions at the Grand Theatre, on Saturday, August 13, to cast 14 youngsters to play two teams of the seven dwarfs. Details will be announced next month. *Snow White* and the Seven Dwarfs will run from Saturday, December 10 until Sunday, January 22.

## Reviews

## Thomas and Friends Live Grand Theatre

Cheers of delight and smiling faces greeted Thomas the Tank at The Grand as he saves the day by being really useful when the circus comes to Sodor.

Children, mums and dads, grandmas and grandads all joined in as they clapped and sang along to catchy children's songs. Lively and full of colour their attention was immediately captured thanks to the enthusiasm of the cast. Finn, my three-year-old grandson's face was a picture when Thomas came chugging onto the stage with his wide-open eyes.

The three engines Thomas, Percy and James were able to move freely around the stage. Joining in with the fun were The Fat Controller, Harold The Helicopter, circus acts and farmyard animals. What a wonderful show to introduce young children to live theatre.

LES JOWETT

## Footloose, Grand Theatre

Well I felt exhausted just watching. When they call this a high energy show they are not exaggerating. This was more breathless than *Footloose* and it was riveting.

The show literally explodes on to the stage at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre and with classic 80s anthems like *Holding Out For A Hero*, *Let's Hear It For The Boy* and *Almost Paradise* there was plenty to sing along with.

*Footloose*, starring Steven Pinder as Reverend Shaw Moore and Adam Booth as Ren, comes complete with electrifying dance routines and everyone was up on their feet at the end of the night. But don't be fooled into thinking this is just a dance show, the singing is also terrific, in particular from the Reverend's daughter Ariel, played by Lorna Want, and Rusty (Jodie Jacobs) and of course Adam Booth as Ren.

*Footloose* tells the story of life in small-town Bomont which is peaceful until city boy, Ren, arrives. Breaking every taboo, Ren brings dance back to the heart of a town held back by the memory of a tragedy. It is based on the hit 80s movie (which launched the careers of Kevin Bacon, Sarah Jessica Parker and John Lithgow).

*Footloose* has become a stage musical phenomenon, from Broadway to the West End and touring across the UK. Dancing may have been against the law in *Footloose* but with this show it would be a crime to miss it. It runs until Saturday (25).

SUE ATTWATER

## Ravi Shankar Birmingham Symphony Hall

The term legend is often overused but when a 91-year-old gets a standing ovation for merely walking on stage you know it is a fitting superlative.

Believe it or not Ravi Shankar has entered his 10th decade and the sage-like master of the sitar commands respect from his protégés as much as he does from his audience. This fact made it all the more surprising that the Symphony Hall was less than half full.

His evening of ragas, which is a musical form dating back around 2,000 years and has its roots in sacred music of the Hindu faith, was as you would expect spiritual, enjoyable and full of intricate musical notations which were executed with the precision of a master who has been playing music for more than 80 years. Surrounded by a mixture of his pupils and other respected Indian musicians you felt privileged, almost as if you were sitting in on a masterclass where Shankar was both passing on his wisdom and overseeing the finer details of his followers' progress.

If you want to see a true legend in action then go and see Shankar.

DANNY FARRAGHER

## Ringo Starr and his All Starr Band Birmingham Symphony Hall

Oh come on. Yes, of course it was very Butlins Holiday Camp at times, but what were you expecting, for goodness sake? This is Ringo.

Now, you might say there are two types of performer in the world of popular music: the artist (such as Bob Dylan) and the entertainer (such as Engelbert Humperdinck). Ringo Starr has never once professed to be an artist, but he has never stopped being an entertainer. And entertain is what he did supremely well.

"If you don't know this next song, you're in the wrong venue," he told the crowd as he launched, inevitably, into *Yellow Submarine*, the daft, throwaway children's song from the greatest group of them all, and the track with which Starr will forever be associated. Surrounded by top-notch (if ancient) musicians (all of whom were major players in their time), Ringo - a sprightly 70 years of age - gave us energetic renditions of *Honey Don't*, *Back Off Boogaloo*, *Photograph*, and of course *With A Little Help From My Friends*.

Starr has suffered over the years at the hands of critics who expected him to be creative like John, Paul and George. As if having three outstanding songwriters in one band was not enough. But it turns out the mop-top caricatures of John the thinker, Paul the romantic, George the mystic and Ringo the clown were pretty accurate after all. At the Symphony Hall he proved he was still the clown, the master entertainer, and actually, a much better drummer than many give him credit for. Ringo... don't listen to the cynics. You're fab.

PHIL GILLAM

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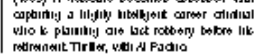


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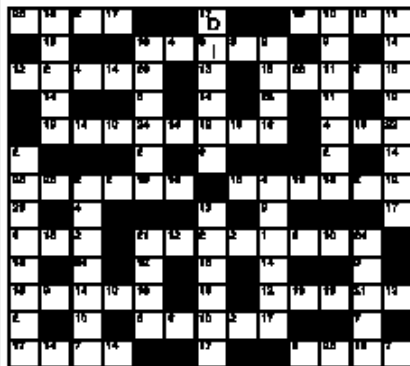


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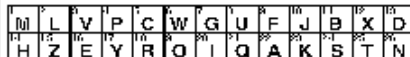
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Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

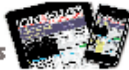


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## Across

7. He broke all the commandments (5)
8. A measure of space and time (7)
9. To economise is often a waste (7)
10. Medicine balls? (5)
12. Agree to keep in touch (10)
15. A beauty ultimately recognised after years of relative neglect (10)
18. Country gives a pale discount (5)
19. Result of contacting sea island (7)
21. Hide in the South location part of a Mediterranean (7)
22. Stirred the soup (5)

## Down

1. They call for patient driving (10)
2. Requested a different desk (5)
3. In the French description of Britain (4)
4. Possibly comes about a famous Harman (6)
5. Suggestion to give a hand? (4)
6. Necessitate being collected? (4, 8)
11. Create ideas, badly and turns aside (4, 6)
13. It would be a blow to a king Harro's boyfriend (8)
14. Looking out for a situation for the hands? (2, 5)
16. Side number? (6)
17. This Jack has three cases in brief (5)
20. One may win it by a head (4)

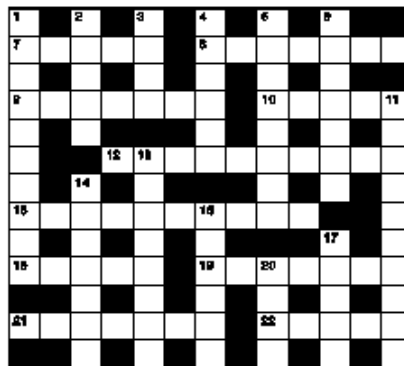
## Quick Clues:

## Across

7. Join (5)
8. Come in (7)
9. Serious (7)
10. Spikes (5)
12. Confused tight (4, 3, 4)
15. Indiscreet (10)
18. Rebutal (5)
19. Compartment (7)
21. Related (7)
22. Healthy (5)

## Down

1. Heptagon (10)
2. Harming (5)
3. In this place (4)
4. Bat (6)
5. Be conspicuous (5, 6)
6. Advent (7)
11. Anxiety (10)
13. Codes (8)
14. Amaze (7)
16. Reconciliation (6)
17. Object (5)
20. Simple (4)



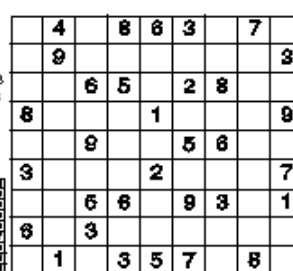
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC: Across: 1. Two-bear, 2. Five, 3. Mashed, 4. Five, 5. Good, 6. 12, 7. Ten, 8. Ten, 9. Ten, 10. Ten, 11. Ten, 12. Ten, 13. Ten, 14. Ten, 15. Ten, 16. Ten, 17. Ten, 18. Ten, 19. Ten, 20. Ten, 21. Ten, 22. Ten. Down: 1. Ten, 2. Ten, 3. Ten, 4. Ten, 5. Ten, 6. Ten, 7. Ten, 8. Ten, 9. Ten, 10. Ten, 11. Ten, 12. Ten, 13. Ten, 14. Ten, 15. Ten, 16. Ten, 17. Ten, 18. Ten, 19. Ten, 20. Ten, 21. Ten, 22. Ten.

## Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:



## Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

The letter was 'A'.

The words were 'A', 'A', 'A'.

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## HALESOWEN



NOW AVAILABLE TO VIEW

Plot 5 Rosalie Gardens

Blackberry Lane

\* Brand new detached family house

\* Four bedrooms

\* Principal bedroom with ensuite

\* Three reception rooms

\* Double garage

\* Gas central heating &amp; double glazed

Price £375,000

## HALESOWEN



Beverley Court

Clarendon Place

\* Spacious one bed first floor flat

\* Well presented

\* Recently modernised

\* Re-fitted kitchen with cooker &amp; hob

\* Well appointed re-fitted shower room

\* Double glazing where specified

Offers in the region of

£89,950

## OLDBURY



Pennicricket Court

Pennicricket Lane

\* Spacious ground floor flat

\* Two bedrooms

\* Kitchen/breakfast room

\* Shower room \* Double glazing where specified

\* Garage

Offers in the region of

£74,950

## OLDBURY



38 Hodges Drive

\* Superb detached house

\* 3 bedrooms

\* Living room

\* Separate dining room

\* Master bedroom with en-suite

\* Garage, GCH &amp; DGW

\* MUST VIEW

Monthly rent of £650

## HALESOWEN



25 Garland Crescent

\* Semi detached house

\* 3 bedrooms

\* Up to dig to most windows

\* 2 living rooms

\* Gas boiler/radiator heating system

\* Garage

Monthly rent of £625

## NETHERTON



Plot 3 Old School House

Gardens 10 Blackbrook Road

\* Brand new town house

\* 3 bedrooms

\* Fitted kitchen with oven, hob and hood

\* Gas boiler/radiator heating system

\* Large garage

Monthly rent of £595

## OLDBURY Tividale



Freda Rise

\* Semi detached House

\* Three bedrooms

\* Lounge

\* Dining Room

\* Rear Garage

\* No upward chain

Offers in the region of

£99,950

## CRADLEY HEATH



Station Road

\* Victorian style semi-detached house

\* Tastefully improved

\* Two reception rooms

\* Breakfast room leading to fitted kitchen

\* Off road parking

\* Spacious accommodation

Offers in the region of

£119,950

## OLDBURY



Bodenham Road

\* Semi-detached house

\* Tastefully presented

\* Ideally suited to first time buyer

\* Three bedrooms

\* Gas boiler serving radiators

\* Double glazing to windows

Offers in the region of

£120,000

## STOURBRIDGE



Stocking Street

\* Semi detached house

\* Ideal first time purchase

\* Three bedrooms

\* Fitted kitchen with appliances

\* Lounge with French doors

\* Pleasant garden

Offers in the region of

£129,950

## HALESOWEN



2 Links View

\* Detached family residence

\* Four double bedrooms

\* Kitchen with some appliances

\* Living &amp; dining rooms

\* Ensuite to master bedroom

\* Double garage, GCH &amp; DGW

\* Available now!

Monthly rent of £895

## HALESOWEN



35 Spinners End Drive

\* First floor flat

\* One bedroom

\* Electric heaters

\* Kitchen with oven

\* Double glazing to most windows

\* Residents parking

\* Available now.

Monthly rent of £365

## HALESOWEN



324 Hagley Road

\* Mid-terraced house

\* Two double bedrooms

\* Two reception rooms

\* Kitchen with cooker

\* Stylish bathroom suite

\* GCH &amp; DG to most windows

\* Available now!

Monthly rent of £525

## HALESOWEN



4 Yates Lane

\* Brand New 2 bedroom starter home

\* Double glazed windows

\* Fitted kitchen with appliances

\* En suite bathroom or shower room to each bedroom

\* Gas boiler/radiator heating

\* Intruder alarm

Monthly rent of £550



Fiat and Alfa owners will benefit from the new brake parts plan

## Fiat puts brake on replacement costs

A NEW range of original equipment brake products, designed to help owners keep their Fiat Group cars authentic, has been unveiled by the manufacturer's dealer network.

Among the latest offerings are an extended range of brake pad and disc kits, which allow the network to reduce the fitted price of replacement brake parts by up to 44 per cent.

The kits are now available on around half the Fiat and Alfa Romeo models and include Grande Punto, Panda, 500 and Bravo, along with Alfa Romeo's 147 and MiTo models, with an average price reduction of 29 per

cent across the range. As part of the initiative a new collection of original equipment brake pads and separate fitting kits has also been launched, reducing the price of a replacement pad procedure by up to 53 per cent.

And to help customers with cars no longer in production, the brake kit line-up is completed with a Magneti Marelli range, called Classic Line, which covers out-of-production models and reduces prices by up to 70 per cent.

### Network

The range includes popular models such as Alfa 156, original Fiat Punto and Fiat Ulysse.

"I'm delighted we have been able

to bring down the prices of these important parts," says Rob Calver, parts and services director, Fiat Group Automobiles UK.

"It means that Fiat's authorised dealer network is now competitive in price with the aftermarket, offering even greater value and peace of mind for customers."

"There's no better place for customers to keep their Fiat and Alfa checked, repaired and operating to its optimum performance, than an official dealer."

Examples of prices for fitted kits include: Fiat Panda - from £136 inc VAT; 500 - from £128; Grande Punto - from £176; Bravo - from £193; Alfa 147 - £211; Alfa MiTo - £191; Alfa 156 - £178.

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VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 EXCLUSIVE, 56 Reg, Black, AC, 58K, Service History	£3995	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SPORT	£4495
ALFA ROMEO 1.6 LUSO JTS 04 Reg, Grey metallic, leather, AC, alloys, 76K, FSH	<b>SOLD</b>	56 Reg, Grey Metallic, AC, Alloys, 41K, FSH £4895	
FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE 06 Reg, 3-dr, Sky Blue Metallic, AC, Alloys, 54K, FSH	£3995	CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO 1.8 VTR+	£4495
FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE 56 Reg, Sky Blue Metallic, Air Con, Alloys, 58K, FSH	£4295	08 Reg, Oriental Blue, 7 Seater, AC, Alloys, 46K, FSH £5995	
JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.5 V6 SE, 03 Reg, Silver, Leather, A/C, Alloys, 44K, FSH	£4495	FORD FOCUS ST-3	£4495
PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SPORT 56 Reg, Grey Metallic, AC, Alloys, 41K, FSH	£4895	56 Reg, 3-dr, Grey Metallic, Black Leather, Air Con, Alloys, 47K, FSH £7995	
PEUGEOT 307 1.4 S 06 Reg, 5-dr, Black Metallic, AC, Alloys, 41K	£4995	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 HDI S (STATION WAGON)	£4495
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CLUB 07 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, AC, 45K, SH	£4995	56 Reg, Diabolo Red, AC, 36K, FSH £5995	
PEUGEOT 307 1.6 HDI S 110 06 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Alloys, AC, 51K, FSH	£5295	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SXI	£4495
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTI CLUB, 56 Reg, Silver, A/C, 44K, FSH	£5695	07 Reg, 3-door, Black Sapphire, AC, Alloys, 60K, FSH, 1 Owner £5795	
PEUGEOT 207 1.4S (STATION WAGON) 08 Reg, Lunar Mist, AC, Roof Bars, 32K, FSH	£5995		
PEUGEOT 307 1.6 HDI S (STATION WAGON) 56 Reg, Diabolo Red, AC, 36K, FSH	£5995		
FIAT BRAVO 1.4 ACTIVE 57 Reg 5-dr, Light Blue Metallic, AC, 10K, FSH	<b>SOLD</b>		
FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.4 ACTIVE 59 Reg, 3-dr, Blue Metallic, only 2,700 miles	£5995		
BMW 525 SE DIESEL, AUTO, 07 Reg, Silver, Bluetooth, Black leather, 27K, FSH	£14995		

### SPORTS

MGZR+ 04 Reg, 5-dr, BRG, Half Leather, Air Con, Alloys, 58K, SH	£2695		
CITROEN C4 1.6 COOL 3-DR, COUPE, 07 Reg, Silver, 1 Owner, A/C, Alloys, 29K, FSH	£4695		
MINI COOPER 02/51 Reg, Yellow, Panoramic Sunroof, 51K, FSH	£4695		
MINI COOPER 53 Reg, Blue Metallic, Chili Pack, 51K, SH	£5295		
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SXI 07 Reg, 3-door, Black Sapphire, AC, Alloys, 60K, FSH, 1 Owner	£5795		
CHRYSLER CROSSFIRE COUPE AUTO 06 Reg, Iceberg Silver, Leather, AC, Alloys, 36K, FSH	<b>SOLD</b>		
FORD FOCUS ST-3 56 Reg, 3-dr, Grey Metallic, Black Leather, Air Con, Alloys, 47K, FSH	£7995		
PORSCHE BOXSTER 2.7 03 Reg, Silver, AC, Blue Leather, 84K, SH	£9995		

### MPVS

RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 EXPRESSION 55 Reg, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 36K, SH	<b>SOLD</b>		
RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE 54 Reg, Grey Metallic, Air Con, Alloys, 44K, FSH	£4295		
VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE 57 Reg, Silver, AC, 27K, FSH, 1 Owner	<b>SOLD</b>		
RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE 5 08 Reg, Red Metallic, 6 Speed, AC, Alloys, 35K, FSH, 1 Owner	£5795		
CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO 1.8 VTR+ 08 Reg, 7 Seats, Grey, AC, Alloys, 51K, FSH, 1 Owner	£5995		
MERCEDES A180 CDI CLASSIC SE 06 Reg, Silver, AC, 46K, FSH	<b>SOLD</b>		
CITROEN BERLINGO 1.6 HDI (Diesel) FORTE 08 Reg, Blue Metallic, 18K, FSH, 1 Owner	<b>SOLD</b>		
CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO 1.8 VTR+ 08 Reg, Oriental Blue, 7 Seater, AC, Alloys, 46K, FSH	£6795		
RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE, 08 Reg, Red, Metallic, A/C, Alloys, 25K, FSH	£6995		

### 4X4'S

LANDROVER FREELANDER TD4 SPORT 04/54 Reg, Gold, AC, Alloys, 59K, FSH	<b>SOLD</b>		
SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 2.0 16v 06 Reg, Silver, AC, Alloys, 39K, FSH	<b>SOLD</b>		

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insurance</p> <p>£2695 £17</p>	<p>08 Reg FORD KA 1.3I STYLE Blue, Col coded bumpers, Low tax &amp; insurance, 33K</p> <p>£3995 £26</p>	<p>58 Reg FORD KA 1.3I STYLE Red, Col coded bumpers, Low tax &amp; insurance</p> <p>£3695 £24</p>	<p>06 Reg FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCI ZETEC Silver, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH, 68K</p> <p>£4495 £29</p>	<p>06 Reg FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCI EDGE Silver, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH, 68K</p> <p>£7395 £44</p>	<p>58 Reg FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCI EDGE ESTATE Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 68K</p> <p>£7395 £44</p>	<p>08 Reg FORD C-MAX 2.0 TDCI ZETEC MPV Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD</p> <p>£6995 £47</p>	<p>04 Reg FORD FUSION 1.4S Silver, A/C, CD, Low Insurance</p> <p>£3695 £24</p>	<p>56 Reg JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0D CLASSIC Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD</p> <p>£6695 £41</p>	<p>03 Reg MINI COOPER 1.6 Yellow with White Viper Stripes, White Alloys, CD</p> <p>£5495 £35</p>	<p>05 Reg NISSAN MICRA 1.2 URBIS Silver, A/C, CD, Rear Parking Sensors, Low Tax &amp; Insurance</p> <p>£3195 £21</p>	<p>53 Reg PEUGEOT 206 1.4 SE Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD Multi Changer</p> <p>£2995 £19</p>	<p>54 Reg PEUGEOT 206 1.1 ZEST 2005, Silver, CD, 3-door, Low Insurance</p> <p>£2995 £17</p>	<p>05 Reg PEUGEOT 206 1.1 S Silver, CD, 5-door, Low Insurance, 39K</p> <p>£3695 £24</p>	<p>02 Reg PEUGEOT 206 2.0 SE CABRIOLET Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 42K</p> <p>£3695 £24</p>	<p>56 Reg PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SE Black A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, FSH, 34K</p> <p>£5195 £28</p>	<p>08 Reg PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S Silver, A/C, CD, 3-door, Low Insurance, FSH, 27K</p> <p>£5395 £35</p>	<p>56 Reg PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDI 90 SPORT DIESEL Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 34K</p> <p>£5195 £39</p>	<p>53 Reg PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S ESTATE Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Roof rails &amp; 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# Water way to cope with problems from drought



Traditional watering cans – less wasteful than a garden hose

## Salad days – so long as you head off any problems with lettuce



Water lettuce to avoid wilting and watch out for the slugs

SALAD leaves can suffer in warm, dry weather, whether wilting in the hot sun or bolting (running to seed) prematurely, so there are a few measures to take to keep them at their tasty best.

If it's hot, sow seeds in the shade, as scorching weather reduces germination rates, and choose a semi-shaded spot so the plant has relief from the sun at some part of the day.

Keep salad leaves well watered, adding compost to retain moisture before planting,

and keep slugs at bay with either slug rings or by picking them off in the evening or after rain, when they are most likely to strike.

To help prevent bolting, mulch around plants and water during dry weather. Remove any plants that have bolted as the leaves will taste bitter and pinch out any flowers that you see developing.

Grey mould or botrytis may be a problem in cold, damp summers. Increase the spacing between plants to reduce the problem and remove any infected material immediately.

After one of the driest springs on record, it's time to get water wise, says Hannah Stephenson

**I'M SURE** many of us basked in the glorious spring sunshine earlier this year, but beds, borders and pots were drying up before our eyes.

Now, after one of the driest springs on record, some areas are in a state of a drought, raising fears of a possible accompanying hosepipe ban.

The Environment Agency has said that East Anglia is an area of concern.

Other regions may escape drought status, but we all need to do our bit to save what water we do have.

The Environment Agency advises householders not to let water run to waste while waiting for the water to get hot.

Collect it and use it to water your plants. Similarly, collect the running water in your shower before getting in.

Use water-retaining crystals when planting up container plants and invest in a water butt which you can put under a drainpipe or other suitable gully and reuse the water in your garden.

The Royal Horticultural society has come up with 10 tips to help save water this summer.

1) Use waste water from washing-up or rinsing vegetables for watering, as normal amounts of household soaps and detergents will not harm soil or plants.

2) Let your lawns go brown. They will recover when the rains return. Newly sown and turfed lawns will require a lot of watering to be successful, so leave sowing or turfing until the autumn. Lawn seed companies are breeding deeper rooted grasses that hopefully will stay green for longer. These will be worth considering, particularly in drier regions.

3) Vegetables need moist soils to give their best. Water them at key growth stages. The response to water is especially marked when sweetcorn, peas and beans begin to flower, when the edible part of lettuces begins to form and when potatoes show flower buds, which initiate plenty of tubers. Most herbs are robust and better flavoured for a little drought. Digging in organic matter in winter can enable soils to hold enough water for crops to keep going for a month with no rain.

### Vulnerable

4) Mature trees, shrubs and climbers, hedges, fruit trees and bushes will not need watering during a drought. However, newly planted trees, shrubs and climbers are extremely vulnerable and it is difficult to ensure the water applied at the surface works its way down to the roots. Don't leave hoses running all night – the water will either saturate the roots and possibly kill them or it will drain deeply below the root zone. Water should always be applied over the surface so it soaks the rootball and surrounding soil.

5) Fruit may remain small if not watered, but it should be sweet and well coloured. Cane fruit and strawberries will benefit by keeping the soil moist every two weeks. In future adding mulches in winter will help improve the soil and retain more moisture.

6) In sunny summers install greenhouse and conservatory shading and ventilation to limit overheating and invest in a min-max thermometer.

7) By grouping pots, ideally in clusters of similar size, watering is made easier and moisture loss reduced. Mass pots for mutual shading and use the largest pots possible. As days lengthen and the sun rises, more plants, especially large-leaved ones, can be gathered in shadier areas. A saucer beneath the pot to retain run-off helps.

8) Don't dig new ground in summer if you can avoid it, as digging soil allows any remaining moisture to escape. Hoe off weeds as shallowly as you can, loosen soil with a fork and 'puddle' plants into the soil, adding a little liquid fertiliser. Adding nutrients helps plants make the best use of what moisture there is by encouraging extensive root growth.

9) Establishing new plants in borders during dry times can be difficult. Instead, pot them into slightly bigger pots and keep well watered and fed in light shade until the autumn planting season arrives.

10) Early summer perennials, irises for example, will survive on moisture left in the soil from winter. Give late summer perennials such as phlox one good watering in the summer as plants begin to flower, which should be enough. In the longer term, consider planting drought-resistant species in your borders such as grasses, Mediterranean type shrubs such as thymes or phlomis, or sedums and other plants with spiky or succulent leaves.



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Offers Over £120,000

NEW

Two bedroom first floor flat with entrance via a security intercom door and briefly comprising of an open plan lounge/modern kitchen, shower room, garage, parking and double glazing.

## Uplands Avenue, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £100,000

NEW

Mid terraced three bedroom property comprising of lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, bathroom, rear garden, driveway, central heating and double glazing.

## Firth Park Crescent, Halesowen



£140,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising of lounge, office/playroom, kitchen/diner, bathroom, driveway, rear garden, central heating and double glazing.

## COMING SOON Harden Manor Court, Chadbury Road

Ground Floor two bedroom flat accessed via intercom security entrance with accommodation briefly comprising of lounge, kitchen, family bathroom, garage and double glazing.

## Furlong Lane, Halesowen



Offers Over £100,000

REDUCED

Detached two bedroom cottage comprising of a lounge, kitchen, sunroom, bathroom, garden, garage, central heating and double glazing.

## Mucklow Hill, Halesowen



£200,000

REDUCED

Detached three bedroom traditional property comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, front and rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

## Frankley Avenue, Halesowen



£180,000

REDUCED

Semi detached extended three bedroom property briefly comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, family bathroom, rear garden, garage and driveway.

## Eagle Close, Rowley Regis



£115,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising of lounge, breakfast kitchen, conservatory, utility area, wc, bathroom, rear garden, driveway and double glazing.

## Lansbury Road, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £100,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising of a lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

## Winsford Close, Halesowen



Offers Over £180,000

Semi detached three bedroom property comprising of I-shaped lounge, study, breakfast kitchen, two bathrooms, front and rear gardens, garage and driveway.

## Olive Hill Road, Halesowen



£215,000

Detached three bedroom property briefly comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, sun room, garage, bathroom, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

## Goths Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £110,000

Semi detached two bedroom property comprising of a lounge, breakfast kitchen, bathroom, garage, front drive, rear garden and double glazing.

## Springfield Lane, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £90,000

Three storey mid terrace three bedroom property briefly comprising of kitchen, lounge, wc, bathroom, front garden, carpet to rear and double glazing.

## Woodbury Road, Halesowen



£120,000

Mid terrace three bedroom property briefly comprising of a kitchen, lounge, bathroom, front and rear gardens, double glazing and central heating.

## Shelton Lane, Halesowen



£140,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising of lounge, open plan kitchen/diner, bathroom, rear garden, driveway, double glazing and central heating.

## Coombe Hill, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £90,000

Semi detached two bedroom property briefly comprising of a lounge, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden, driveway, double glazing and central heating.

## Cornfield Road, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £110,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising of lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, wc, rear garden, driveway, double glazing and central heating.

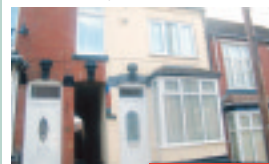
## Siviters Lane, Rowley Regis



£125,000

End of terrace three bedroom property briefly comprising of a lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden, double glazed and centrally heated.

## Talbot Street, Halesowen



Offers Over £90,000

REDUCED

Mid terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, rear garden and double glazing.

## Mount Street, Halesowen



Offers Over £115,000

REDUCED

Mid terrace two bedroom property briefly comprising of two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, refitted bathroom, rear garden, central heating and double glazing.

## Oxenton Croft, Halesowen



£177,950

Semi detached three bedroom property comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, separate wc, driveway, rear garden, garage and part double glazing.

## Sidaway Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £165,000

Semi detached four bedroom property briefly comprising of a lounge, dining area, conservatory, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden, garage, central heating and double glazing.

## Winchester Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £70,000

End of terrace two bedroom property comprising of a lounge, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden, allocated parking and double glazed.

## Peckover Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £118,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising of lounge, breakfast kitchen, shower room, garage, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.



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## Lost & Found

**LOST**Black/white Border Collie,  
Friday, June 10, Red Lake Drive,  
Pedmore, any info please call  
0785 747553, Newark.

**LOST**Laptop contains sentimental  
photos, June 4, in Brewd,  
Reward for factual info, 07875  
286179.

**LOST**Tortoise, from Longview-  
in-the-dale, Reward offered for  
info leading to safe return, last  
seen early June, 07967 583836.

## personal

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WLTm a kind, caring, honest  
gentleman, to enjoy walking,  
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romance, aged 60 - 70 years.  
Photo please (returned).  
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Queen Street,  
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**BILBROOK JUNIORS FC.**  
Require Players and  
enthusiastic Managers for the  
coming season.  
Players from School years:  
Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and  
Year 3.  
Weekly training and weekly  
matches. All coaches are CRB  
checked.  
**TRIAL DAY:**  
July 2nd, 10am-12 noon at  
Bilbrook Juniors home-  
ground.  
Contact Tom Maydew: 07583  
797365 for further details.

**BURIAL PLOT** for three people at  
Merridale Cemetery. For details  
ring 01902 407917.

**BUSINESS MAN 58**  
Successful, gregarious, into  
cars, boats and planes, seeks  
articulate, attractive lady  
35-50.  
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YOUNG FOOTBALLERS**  
(Boys and Girls)  
Silverdale Football Club  
(Charter Standard Club)  
Walsall. Are looking for new  
players this coming season.  
Come along on Friday  
evenings to our Training  
Academy at our Walsall  
Road (Walsall) ground  
between 6pm and 8pm. Under  
7's, to under 17's. We are also  
looking for girls at under 12  
for our new team and Ladies  
for our Open age team.  
For more info contact Brian  
Lark on 01922 441459 or  
marty.lawley@btinternet.com

**FC PERTON**  
Charter Standard Club.  
Qualified coaches require  
under 10's players. Year 4.  
Training Perton playing  
fields, 25, 10.30am.  
Paul 01902 750228

**FEMALE**  
Slim, attractive, seeks Male,  
45 to 55, GSGirls genuine, fun  
loving and caring for Friend-  
ship may be LTR. Photo  
please (returned).  
Box Number P17049,  
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**GORNAL FC YOUTH**  
(Under 18's)  
Required quality players for  
Midlands Floodlit league  
team.  
Contact Jon Sturmer  
0748 693354.

**LADY, 70's**  
Young at heart WLTm gentle  
man for friendship and days  
out and holidays. UK and  
abroad. Similar view to  
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Dudley area. Photos  
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**ACCIDENT**  
Evening of May 31, 2011, M40  
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Saturday, July 2nd.  
Under 6's - U-8's - U-10's -  
U-12's - U-14's.  
Sunday, July 3rd.  
Under 7's - U-9's - U-11's -  
U-13's - U-15's.  
For applications form visit:  
www.penncolts.co.uk  
or contact Pete: 07748 677682.

**PENN COLTS FC**  
Players required for season  
2011/12.  
Under 7  
Contact Kerry 07847 142645.  
Under 8  
Contact Roy 07940 462290.  
Under 9  
Contact Andy 07885 417155.  
Under 12  
Contact John 07712 250387  
Under 15  
Contact TJ 07957 806426  
Under 12 girls  
Contact John 07712 250387.

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Email:  
Syarnall574@btinternet.com

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Current year 5, looking for  
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squad, moving to 11 a side next  
season, excellent coaching to  
FA level 2. Call Bill Hogg on  
07890 261991.

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We still have places left for  
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Goalkeeper urgently required  
for existing team playing in  
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Qualifications.  
Contact Mark Cox  
01902 896466.

**TRYSELL TIGERS WEST**  
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Current year 7.  
Require outfield player to  
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Contact Martyn Cox  
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Model IDV65W  
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Television**  
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# sport

## Himley hold on to take a draw

## Sparked

## Claimed

Evesham progressed to 84-1 before the weather intervened.

# WEATHER WINS, WITH HILL HELD

as time ran out. good progress and brought on (2pm).

## Only two teams to win remain locked at the top

All-rounder William O'Driscoll followed up last week's display with 6-32 and 57 as Nomads overcame

The final game in the division was a remarkable one as Worcester piled

## Nine-wicket win as Waterfront open lead

They saw off Areley Kings by 57 runs while Bewdley Arches beat Bayton thanks largely to 47 runs from D Taylor.

# Collapse helps leaders Stour

## Knock

Their openers Ryan Willetts (9) and Ian Biddle (13) went cheaply to Calvin Van Vuuren but

# Youngsters off to Twickenham



The team has been coached by gramine has been running since on.

The police Tag Rugby programme has been running since

practise and it has certainly paid off."

Division Five's head-to-head at Old Hill saw the home side manage only a losing draw against Bromsgrove.

Cookley Harborne and Enville snatched winning draws batting second at home to Stourport and Birlingham respectively.

Division Five's head-to-head at Old Hill saw the home side manage only a losing draw against Bromsgrove.

**The Halesowen Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford on Thursday, June 23, 2011.**

A horizontal banner for Himley Garden Buildings. The background is light green with a leafy border at the top. In the center, the company name 'Himley Garden Buildings' is written in a green, stylized font, with a green outline of a house above the word 'Himley'. Below the name, the text 'FREEPHONE 0800 9961 888 or PHONE 01384 634005' is displayed in red and black, followed by the slogan 'If you can draw it, we can build it!' in italics. At the bottom center, the address 'HGB House, Maypole Hill, Halesowen B63 2NZ' and website 'Info@himleygardenbuildings.co.uk' are listed. On the left, a small image of a wooden shed is shown next to the text 'FREE DELIVERY AND ERECTION' and a small 'VISA' logo. On the right, another small image of a wooden shed is shown next to a list of services: 'POTTING SHEDS', 'WORK SHOPS', and 'HOME OFFICES', and the text 'CALL US FOR A FREE QUOTE'.

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